

Voces Novae: Chapman University Historical Review, Vol 2, No 2 (2011)

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Administration

The administration at Chapman has been very successful in expanding Chapman's appeal and raising the school's academic standards. This is due, in part, to the strong entrepreneurial spirit exuded throughout the administration, led by President and Professor of Economics [Jim Doti](#). After arriving in 1974, Doti quickly became a prominent figure in advertising Chapman through the Orange County Economic Forecast. Former president, G.T. Buck Smith, who came in 1977, chose Doti to serve as acting president in 1987 during his sabbatical. Doti would be acting president again in 1988 before taking over permanently as President in 1991 and transforming Chapman into the university it is today. However, Smith opened the door for many people aside from Doti. [Behzad Binesh \('77\)](#), Vice President Controller and Chapman alumnus, received a great gift from Smith when the president offered him a job, essentially saving him from going back to his home country of Iran and fighting in the Revolution there. Binesh has been here ever since, now working along side new COO Harold Hewitt.

President Doti works with many other talented individuals as well who have helped him pursue his vision for the University. [Daniele Struppa](#) came to Chapman as Chancellor in 2006 from George Mason and helped establish a stronger science program and encouraged more interdisciplinary in the curriculum. He attracted his old colleagues from GMU to start the Economic Science Institute, as well as a group of prominent scientists to build the Computational Sciences program. [Sheryl Bourgeois](#), Executive Vice President for University Advancement, came to Chapman in 1998 with a background in fundraising. She worked extensively on the Millennium Capital Campaign to fundraise for many of the buildings standing on Chapman's campus today. Like President Doti, [Raymond Sfeir](#) was a Professor of Economics at Chapman in 1985 before becoming Vice Chancellor of Academic Administration. Dean of Students [Jerry Price](#) only joined the Chapman staff in 2009, but has already made a tremendous impact in the undergraduate experience, particularly in reorganizing the student housing process. While the current administration has made great strides in turning Chapman into a forerunner in undergraduate education, President Doti feels that this development started even before he became president: "Even in the thirty seven years I've been here, I've seen [...] great leadership on the board, great faculty, great administrative leadership, an incredible staff that love this place, love our students and see their roles here--not as a job, but as part of their families if you will."

Interview with President of Chapman University Jim Doti



Interview with Vice President Controller Behzad Binesh ('77)



Interview with Chancellor of Chapman University Daniele Struppa



Interview with Executive Vice President of University Advancement Sheryl Bourgeois



Interview with Vice Chancellor of Academic Administration Raymond Sfeir



Interview with Dean of Students Jerry Price



